

## CHAPTER 17

# CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN MILITARY CEREMONIES

*This chapter serves as a guide for commanders in planning and conducting military ceremonies with civilian participation.*

### 17-1. HISTORY

Since its inception at the beginning of the American Revolution, the U.S. Army has always seen the importance of civilian control of the military and participation of civilians in military activities. As a result, military ceremonies are frequently held to honor civilians.

### 17-2. TYPES OF CEREMONIES

Civilians may participate in three general categories of military ceremonies:

- Presenting awards.
- Receiving awards.
- Being honored.

a. **Civilians Presenting Awards.** This category includes occasions when an award is made to another civilian and occasions when awards are presented to military personnel by a civilian. These ceremonies are conducted as previously outlined with the following exceptions:

(1) The host or reviewing officer is accompanied to the reviewing stand by the civilian. The reviewing officer may relinquish the place of honor to the civilian.

(2) The reviewing officer accompanies the civilian throughout the sequence of events.

(3) Because of lack of familiarity with military ceremonies, it may be necessary to brief the civilian before and during the conduct of the ceremony.

b. **Civilians Receiving Awards.** Conduct of these ceremonies should be guided by paragraph 10-4 with the following exceptions:

(1) Civilians should be initially positioned to the left of the reviewing stand and not marched forward with the military personnel, if any, to receive awards.

(2) When the Colors are brought forward, civilians move to a position five steps in front of and centered on the Colors. When military and civilians receive an award at the same time, they are aligned from right to left with the highest award on the right.

(3) When the awardees are posted, they remain in the same order. If there are no military awardees, the civilians move to the left of the reviewing stand.

(4) When this ceremony is conducted for presenting posthumous awards, other types of awards are not incorporated. A carefully selected escort officer should accompany relatives of persons receiving posthumous awards.

**NOTE:** If there is only one awardee, he may be the reviewing official.

c. **Reviews in Honor of Civilians.** Government employees, private citizens, and local, state, national, or foreign officials may be honored by a review. (Consult AR 600-25 for special honors due certain officials.) Other civilians may be honored, as noted above, by participating in the place of or with the reviewing officer.